

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-9 and 11-51 are now pending in this application, with Claims 1, 17, 22, 27, 40, 42, 44 and 46 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 17, 22 and 27, and added new Claims 32-51.

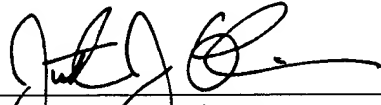
Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for extending the courtesy of conducting a personal interview with Applicant's representative, on October 8, 2003. During that interview, it was agreed that the outstanding rejections would be withdrawn and that Applicant would clarify the language in the claims by revising independent Claims 1, 17, 22 and 27, as amended above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the outstanding rejections set forth in the Office Action dated June 4, 2003.

In addition, Applicant submits that new independent Claims 40, 42, 44 and 46 correspond generally to independent Claims 1, 17, 22 and 27, and are patentable over the art of record for the same reasons as those independent claims.

Applicant submits that all outstanding matters have been attended to in this application, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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